

THE SPARK GAP

MIDSTATE AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB
N9DLN/R
146.835



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SEC-TREAS LENDEL COOK W9LNX ACTIVITES-KEENAN HARDISTY N9HCK**

SPECIAL WEATHER EDITION--MARCH 1989

SPRING STORM SEASON APPROACHES; JOHNSON COUNTY READY

Once again the spring heavy weather season is coming on us, but this year Johnson County is ready, probably more ready than many counties in Indiana. With a full-time Civil Defense director, Sam Williams, and a concerned and active Amateur community, Johnson county will get weather information faster and more accurately than many other areas in the state.

We have already wired the Sheriff's dispatch office for weather radar, a setup which I believe is unique in Indiana, if not the US. When necessary, the dispatchers can observe the radar directly to see whether, and when, their county is threatened. Together with our "on the scene" reporting, the county will be one of the best informed, and best protected, in Indiana. This is a heavy responsibility on MSARC, but I believe we are ready for it.

At the February meeting, CD Director Sam Williams and Sheriff Doran Miller discussed ways the club can assist in weather spotting. While details aren't complete yet, you can be sure that we will be very much involved in such activities. Let's be ready, and be extremely good at what we do.

AMATEUR WORK VITAL IN JANUARY STORM

Your editor was called to the Indianapolis Airport office of the National Weather Service when the heavy weather began to build on January 15, 1989. Along with N9GSL, a "new" spotter sent for practice, I was able to see first hand just how much the NWS depends on us amateurs. They especially appreciated the work of two MSARC members, N9DLN for tracking the storm almost to Decatur County, and KB9BGV for relaying reports from the Vincennes area via the 145.25 machine. At the NWS, we are not shoved off into a corner and told to be quiet; we are *involved*! Our information is vital to the Weather Service, and don't ever

think otherwise. If you should get the chance to visit the NWS office during a weather alert, do so; you'll see how important amateur radio is to them.

de KA9OOH

DE N9DON

First, congratulations to our Kerchunker winners for January, N9DON and KB9BGS, and to KB9BGS again in February.

Speaking of winners, the winning design for our N200DLN QSL card is Seth, KB9GBV. As you know, the N200DLN call was used to represent MSARC in the "We The People" Bicentennial WAS contest, and the winning card will be printed and sent to the 700-some hams who worked it. The card will list the original seven persons who entered the contest from MSARC. Congratulations, Seth; you may pick up your prize at the March meeting.

VE testing in Johnson County will begin on Saturday, April 15, and will be held every second month thereafter in Franklin. Each session will begin at 9:00 AM at the Sheriff's building. During the alternate months, there will be testing in Rushville on the same day; contact Mac NV9K for details if you might want to go there. Other March dates and cities for VE tests are:

- 18--Plymouth
Michigan City
Morristown
- 19--Auburn
- 25--Lebanon

By the way, to keep posted on ham activities in central Indiana, you can call 897-6676 day or night for a recorded message of current activities, including VE sessions and Fests. Also, if we have any activities that we want mentioned, we can call

Mike Head WB9ZQE at 898-2792 to have them included on the Hotline.

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

By club vote at the January meeting, dues were increased to \$18.00 per year, but now include autopatch privileges on the 146.835 machine. (If you need your codes, contact Larry N9DLN.) If you haven't paid for 1989 yet, please do so; the club needs the money!

SPOTTER'S GUIDE

Attached is a handout from the National Weather Service, showing weather spotters what to look for, where to look, and how to estimate wind speeds. If you go out spotting, take this with you to help give accurate, concise reports. Remember, if there is bad weather around, net control and the airport operator get pretty busy, so they need quick, *accurate* reports. This should help. If you have anything to transmit on a weather net, please think before sending, and make sure it's short and concise, but accurate and helpful. Tall order, isn't it?